

# Rematch vs. Green Bay

Detailed Preview  
Begins On Page 8



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# BEAR REPORT

A NEWSPAPER DEVOTED EXCLUSIVELY TO THE CHICAGO BEARS AND THE NFL.

Vol. 10, No. 14

October 31, 1985

PUBLISHED BY 55 ENTERPRISES, INC.

CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60611







A Newspaper Devoted Exclusively  
To The Chicago Bears and The NFL

Vol. 10, No. 14 October 31, 1985

## On The Cover...

**DEFENSIVE** tackle Steve McMichael (76) has recorded 5½ sacks this season. (Bear Report photo by Jonathan Daniel)



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Printed By  
Royle Publishing Co.  
Sun Prairie, WI 53590

The BEAR REPORT is published on Thursdays, 26 times a year; weekly in August, September, October, November, and December, the second week of January, the first weeks of February and March, and the second week of May.

PRINTING and CIRCULATION DEPTS. — 112 Market St., Sun Prairie, WI 53590. Second class postage paid at Sun Prairie, WI 53590. Phone: 608/837-5161.

EDITORIAL DEPT. — 883 Carriage Lane, Palatine, IL 60074. Phone: 312/991-7614.

ADVERTISING DEPT. — 500 N. Michigan Ave., Suite 2000, Chicago, IL 60611.

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## Commentary



By  
Doug  
Buffone



## Consistency Is Key to Success

Obviously the Bears have been doing a lot of things right this year. No team gets to be 8-0 at the midpoint of the season by magic.

Every members of this team has contributed to its success. There have been heroes on offense, defense and the special teams. And of course, the coaching staff must also take a bow. Without Mike Ditka and his assistants, all these ingredients wouldn't be blending properly.

**ONE OF THE MOST** remarkable things about this Bear team is its consistency. Just take a look around the league at some of the other playoff contenders. One week, Detroit gets murdered by Green Bay. A few weeks later, the Lions shock the Dolphins and 49ers. One week, Dallas looks like the Landry team of old. The next week, the Cowboys look pathetic. It's like a bunch of yo-yos. The Bears have played consistently well throughout this season and that's why they are the only unbeaten team.

Through the first eight games, no opponent of the Bears got closer than eight points in the final score. That's remarkable. No matter how good a team you have, one should expect at least a game or two to be decided by three points or less. While the Bears have come from behind to win five of the eight games, they led going into the fourth quarter of each of them. The Bears have been awesome in the second half of every game.

While the offense hasn't looked as sharp lately as it did a few weeks ago, it is still moving the ball quite well, and the points and yards are being piled up in record numbers. There is no question QB Jim McMahon has been hurting during the past two games but he is still strong enough to guide his team to victory. He overthrew and underthrew a lot of passes in the 27-9 victory over Minnesota last Sunday but he still connected enough to score some touchdowns.

**THE IMPORTANT THING** about the Bears' offense is it is keeping opposing defenses off balance. Foes don't know what to do next. Should they try to stop Walter Payton? Should they try an all-out blitz on McMahon? Should they double team both wide-outs? Whenever something is taken away, McMahon always seems to find an outlet.

While the defense may not lead the league statistically at this point, I find it hard to believe there is a better unit in the NFL at this point than the Bears'. Someone in the NFL better outlaw this defense and they better put the members of the defensive line in jail for manslaughter before they send a few quarterbacks into retirement. I've never seen Tommy Kramer have the kinds of problems like he did Sunday. He usually murders the Bears but he was the victim in this game. It's great to see the Bears' pass rush being so effective. It helps the defensive backs tremendously and it doesn't make blitzing a necessity.

The trio of Bear linebackers (Otis Wilson, Mike Singletary and Wilber Marshall) has to be the best in the business. When it comes to Pro Bowl time, there isn't even any need to vote. All of these guys should be on the field at Honolulu. In fact, most of the starting defense should be there.

One would suspect the Bears could be in for a letdown this Sunday. They are undefeated and the Packers appear to be having loads of problems. It would be easy to figure the Bears may just go up to Lambeau and expect to win. But there is no need to worry because the Bears play every game like it is their last one. The hunger for victory has not subsided.

Doug Buffone's selections for the ninth week of the regular season can be found on Page 10 of this issue.



MINNESOTA CORNERBACK CARL Lee (right) breaks up a pass intended for Willie Gault. (Bear Report photo by Jonathan Daniel)

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## Defense Dominates In Victory Over Vikes

# Bears Only Undeclared Team In the NFL

By Mark Friedlander  
Editor

And then there was one.

After the Los Angeles Rams lost to the San Francisco 49ers last Sunday afternoon, the Bears became the only undefeated team in the National Football League during the 1985 season. Their convincing 27-9 victory over the Minnesota Vikings last Sunday at Soldier Field keeps their record perfect at 8-0. The win also keeps their lead at three games over the surging Detroit Lions.

"I THOUGHT WE were a pretty good football team coming into this season," said head coach Mike Ditka. "Eight-and-0 was not out of the question."

"I really felt we could be undefeated at this point. There was no doubt in my mind," said RB Walter Payton. "Our goal this year was to be undefeated. We wanted to outdo Miami (who went 17-0 in 1972 including Super Bowl win) and we still have a chance to do that."

"We still have that chip on our shoulder," added DT Dan Hampton. "Whether we're 8-0 or 10-0, we want to prove every week we're the best team and I think we have."

**NOT ONLY ARE** the Bears winning games at a record pace, but they are doing it with little trouble. During their last three victories, they have outscored opponents by a total of 50 points and none of those foes has scored more than 10 points in a single game.

"Every game we've played thus far we felt we should win and that's the way we've approached it," said center Jay Hilgenberg. "It's not hard to believe that we're 8-0 at this point."

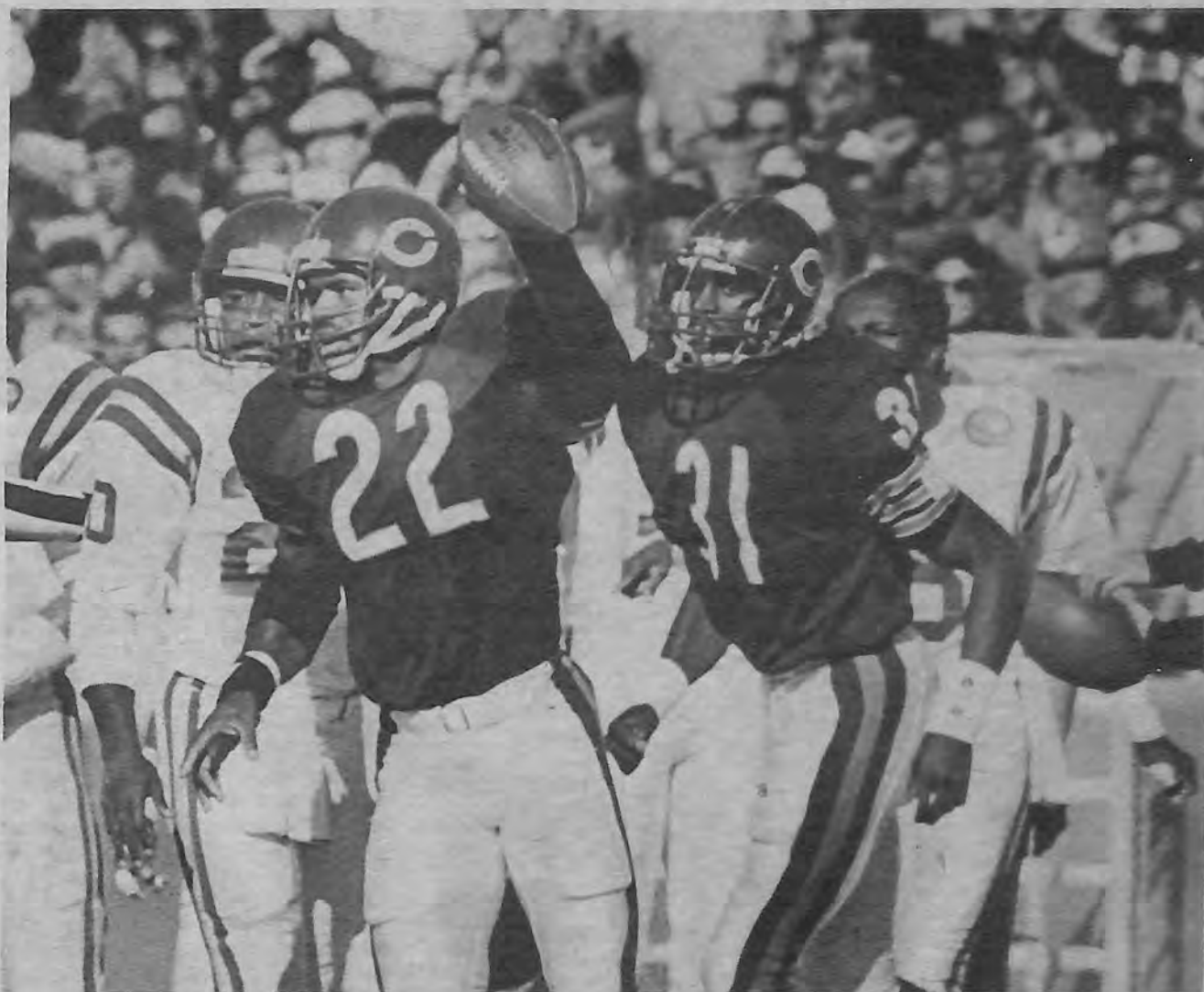
As has been the case with many Bear victories this season, it took a total team effort to knock off the Vikings. The offense compiled 413 yards and QB Jim McMahon threw two touchdown passes. Running back Walter Payton rushed for 118 yards and scored a touchdown. The defense allowed only 236 yards and intercepted five passes. Placekicker Kevin Butler connected on two field goal attempts and punter Maury Buford averaged 47.0 on four attempts.

"**FORTY-FIVE GUYS** won the game today," said WR Dennis McKinnon who scored one of the three Bear touchdowns.

Minnesota quarterback Tommy Kramer has had some Hall of Fame performances vs. the Bears in the past but he had many problems last Sunday. He completed just 16 of 33 passes for 176 yards, was intercepted three times and was sacked three times.

"We said we had to take one thing away from them and that was Kramer stepping up inside. Our defense played

Continued Page 14



**SAFETY DAVE DUERSON (22)** celebrates one of the five Bear interceptions in the victory over the Vikings. (Bear Report photo by Jonathan Daniel)

## Injury Report

CB Mike Richardson sustained a strained hamstring in the first half vs. the Vikings. His status is uncertain for next Sunday's contest at Green Bay... FB Calvin Thomas (knee) missed his second consecutive game. He was injured in the Oct. 13 game at San Francisco.



**FULLBACK MATT SUHEY** picks up key yardage on a pass reception in the closing minute of the first half. (Bear Report photo by Jonathan Daniel)

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# Bears-Vikings Official Statistics

## SCORING SUMMARY

Minnesota Vikings ..... 0 7 0 2 — 9  
Chicago Bears ..... 10 3 7 7 — 27

- 1 - Bears: McKinnon, 33-yd. pass fumble McMahon (Butler, kick) (7-78)  
1 - Bears: Butler, 40-yard field goal (10-43)  
2 - Vikings: Nelson, one-yard run (Stenerud kick) (8-46)  
2 - Bears: Butler, 29-yard field goal (55-10)  
3 - Bears: Wilson, 23-yard interception return (Butler kick)  
4 - Bears: Payton, 20-yard pass from McMahon (Butler, kick) (7-48)  
4 - Vikings: Elshire, safety, tackled Fuller in end zone (-4)

WEATHER: Sunny, 43% humidity, temperature 53 degrees, wind north at 10 mph.

ATTENDANCE: 63,815 (tickets distributed 65,790); unused 1,975.

TIME 3:16

## FINAL TEAM STATISTICS

	Vikings	Bears
TOTAL FIRST DOWNS	16	24
By Rushing	5	12
By Passing	10	10
By Penalty	1	2
THIRD DOWN EFFICIENCY	4-12	6-14
FOURTH DOWN EFFICIENCY	0-0	0-0
TOTAL NET YARDS	236	413
Total Off. Plays		
(Inc. times passing)	64	74
Av. Gain per Off. Play	3.7	5.6
NET YARDS RUSHING	30	202
Total Rushing Plays	14	39
Av. Gain Per Rush. Play	2.1	5.2
NET YARDS PASSING	206	211
Times Thrown —		
Yds. Lost Att. To Pass	4-30	1-4
Gross Yds. Passing	236	215
PASS ATT. — COMP. —		
HAD INTERCEPTED	46-21-5	34-19-1
Av. Gain Per Pass Play		
(Inc. times thrown passing)	4.1	6.0
PUNTS — NO. AND AV.	6-42.0	4-47.0
Had Blocked	0	0
TOTAL RET. YARDAGE	137	132
No. and Yds. Punt Ret.	0-0	3-42
No. and Yds. KO Returns	6-137	2-50
No. and Yds. Interc. Ret.	1-0	5-40
PENALTIES — NO. AND YDS.	8-60	6-77
FUMBLES — NO. AND LOST	0-0	1-1
TOUCHDOWNS	1	3
Rushing	1	0
Passing	0	2
Returns	0	1
EXTRA POINTS MADE — ATT.	1-1	3-3
FG MADE — ATT.	0-0	2-2
TIME OF POSSESSION	25:18	34:42

## FINAL INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS

### Minnesota Vikings

RUSHING	Att.	Net Yds.	Avg.	Long	TD
Anderson	4	8	2.0	6	0
Nelson	8	22	2.8	6	1
Kramer	1	-1	-1.0	-1	0
Rice	1	1	1.0	1	0

PASSING	Att.	Comp.	Yds.	Tkd. Yds.	LG	Had Int.
Kramer	33	16	176	3-21	28	3
Wilson	13	5	60	1-9	20	2

PASS RECEIVING	No.	Yds.	LG
Jordan	5	35	9
Nelson	5	44	13
Carter	2	32	20
Lewis	4	79	28
Anderson	3	21	11
Mularkey	1	12	12
Jones	1	13	13

INTERCEPTIONS	No.	Yds.	LG
Teal	1	0	0

PUNTING	No.	Yds.	Avg.	In 20	LG
Coleman	6	252	42.0	2	53

PUNT RETURNS	No.
*Touchbacks	3
*Downed	1

KICKOFF RETURNS	No.	Yds.	LG
Rhymes	4	119	48
M. Turner	1	9	9
Nelson	1	9	9

FUMBLES	Opp. Rec.	Yds.
D. Johnson	1	0

### Chicago Bears

RUSHING	Att.	Net Yds.	Avg.	Long
Payton	19	118	6.2	13
Suhey	10	34	3.4	7
Gault	1	5	5.0	5
McMahon	1	8	8.0	8
Sanders	4	6	1.5	5
Gentry	4	31	7.8	15

PASSING	Att.	Comp.	Yds.	Tkd. Yds.	TD	LG	Had Int.
McMahon	31	18	181	0-0	2	33	1
Fuller	3	1	34	1-4	0	34	0

PASS RECEIVING	No.	Yds.	LG	TD
Payton	5	37	20	1
Moorehead	4	53	17	0
McKinnon	1	33	33	1
Suhey	5	38	13	0
Gault	1	7	7	0
Wrightman	2	13	11	0
Maness	1	34	34	0

INTERCEPTIONS	No.	Yds.	LG	TD
Dyerson	1	0	0	0
Wilson	1	23	23	1
Marshall	2	7	7	0
Taylor	1	10	10	0

PUNTING	No.	Yds.	Avg.	TB	LG
Buford	4	188	47.0	3	55

PUNT RETURNS	No.	Yds.	LG
Taylor	2	25	14
McKinnon	1	17	17
*Downed	3	0	0

KICKOFF RETURNS	No.	Yds.	LG
Gault	2	50	27

FUMBLES	Fum.	Own Rec.	Yds.	TD
Sanders	1	0	0	0

## DEFENSIVE STATISTICS

### (Unofficial)

	T	A	SK	YL	Int.	PD	FR
Bess	3	1	0	0	0	0	0
Turner	2	0	0	0	0	0	0
Holt	2	0	0	0	0	0	0



**RUNNING BACK WALTER** Payton rushed for 118 yards vs. the Vikings. It is his third 100-yard game. (Bear Report photo by Jonathan Daniel)

	T	A	SK	YL	Int.	PD	FR
Teal	1	1	0	0	1	1	0
Lee	4	0	0	0	0	1	0
Browner	15	2	0	0	0	0	0
Nord	2	3	0	0	0	0	0
Fowlkes	2	0	0	0	0	0	0
Johnson	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
McNeill	6	1	0	0	0	0	0
Studwell	7	5	0	0	0	0	0
Doleman	3	1	0	0	0	0	0
Smith	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Millard	1	1	0	0	0	0	0
Mullaney	2	0	0	0	0	0	0
Martin	3	1	0	0	0	0	0
Newton	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
Elshire	1	1	*1	4	0	0	0
Lewis	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Nelson	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Carter	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
MacDonald	1	0	0	0	0	0	0

\*Safety

Forced Fumbles: Fowlkes, 1.

Tackles: Lee, 2; Fowlkes, 1; Smith, 1; Howard, 1.

Assist: Turner, 1.

	T	A	SK	YL	Int.	PD	FR
Frazier	6	1	0	0	0	2	0
Duerson	4	1	0	0	1	1	0
Taylor	3	0	0	0	1	1	0
Fencik	7	2	0	0	0	1	0
Singletary	4	1	0	0	0	0	0
Wilson	3	1	2	12	1	1	0
Marshall	5	3	0	0	2	3	0
Perry	2	0	1	9	0	0	0
Hartenstine	2	0	1	9	0	0	0
McMichael	2	0	0	0	0	0	0
Dent	2	0	0	0	0	2	0
Margerum	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Sanders	1	0	0	0	0	0	0

Forced Fumbles: None.

Tackles: Wrightman, 2; Gentry, 2; Butler, 1; Perry, 1.

Assist: Sanders, 2.

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# The Perry Legend Grows

It isn't enough to just win, baby, as the Los Angeles Raiders do. The Bears want to just have fun, baby, while they're winning.

Fortunately, William Perry has not yet reached his goal of 295 pounds. A 295-pound fullback just wouldn't have the same ring to it as a 308-pound fullback.

**THE 308 IS WHAT** Perry said he weighed after games. "Before games you have to eat a little, so I probably weigh 310, 311," he said.

Carrying the ball can take a lot out of a man.

If William Perry and coach Mike Ditka didn't change the face of football, they at least put a little smile on it. The Bears haven't been 7-0 since 1942, but football hasn't had

that he's not a good athlete," said Ditka with considerable sarcasm.

Perry proved some points while scoring them.

When he was drafted, he reported weighing 317. By the time he signed and joined training camp, it was more like 330. Either size was a considerable improvement from the 370 (380?) Perry weighed at the end (beginning?) of his senior season at Clemson.

**DEFENSIVE COORDINATOR** Buddy Ryan called his selection "a wasted draft choice." Ryan later backed off a bit and said he wanted to motivate Perry to lose weight. When Ryan doesn't have anything good to say about rookies, he says it.

Lately, Ryan has noticed improvement, but not enough to let Perry play for Mike Hartenstine in the "46" formation or for Hampton or McMichael in the regular lineup. Perry is valuable in short yardage defense for the same reason he proved valuable in short yardage offense. Who can stop him? Yet any good defensive lineman must develop a variety of pass rushing techniques. Perry has one — the bull rush. It is the same technique he used against Green Bay linebacker George Cumby while blocking for Walter Payton.

"It's pretty hard to stop him and the guy coming behind him is a pretty good football player, too," said Ditka. "Usually when two bodies hit there's an impact point and both stop a little bit. When Perry hit Cumby, it was just like an earth mover."

**CUMBY HAD ANOTHER** idea the third time Perry tried to block him. It was at the four-yard line on third-and-one in the fourth quarter. Cumby cut Perry's legs and Payton couldn't get around his fallen teammate.

If the Bears use Perry at the goal line against the Packers this week, that is the kind of defense Packer coach Forrest Gregg expects to see. The defense always catches up with the offense. To Gregg, Perry was a flash in the frying pan.

"Once everybody gets over the idea this is truly phenomenal and amazing and plays defense the way defense should be played, I don't think it's really a factor," said Gregg. "Ask me if I would rather have Donnie Humphrey (Packer defensive tackle) at fullback than Jessie Clark, I'd tell you heck no. It's the same way there. That will probably wear out. Somebody will break his leg."

Continued Next Page



By  
Don  
Pierson

a 308-pound running back since 1942.

**"I DIDN'T PLAN** on making him a national hero," said Ditka.

Ditka had only planned on making Perry feel better about his rookie season. To a defensive tackle, sacking a quarterback is better than scoring a touchdown. Perry reaffirmed that sentiment shortly after scoring against the Packers.

Playing offense is just something to do in Perry's spare time. Ditka noticed that he wasn't playing much with Dan Hampton and Steve McMichael on defense, so Ditka invited him over to the other side of the ball.

**"EVERYBODY HAS TOLD** you since he was drafted



IT TAKES TWO Vikings to hold back defensive tackle William Perry. (Bear Report photo by Jonathan Daniel)

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# Perry

Continued From Page 5

**TO PERRY, IT** was more "fun and games" than a milestone in football history.

"Coach Ditka said if I had good body lean and a good fake and everything, he would give me the ball at the goal line. He said if everything goes well, he was going to get himself a genius button," said Perry.

It was nothing new to Perry, who remembered scoring in high school from "about 20 yards. I just outran everybody."

**TO DITKA, IT** was a way to keep a 308-pound football player from wasting away.

"In a hundred years, nobody will care anyway, so we thought, 'Let's do it,'" said Ditka.

"The kid is unbelievable. He's an ideal citizen. He's

done everything we've asked him to do. He weighed 310 last week, 308 this week. His movement is excellent. And he was reminiscent of Willie (Gault) coming out of the blocks."

**PERRY HAS NO** desire to change positions, any more than fullback Matt Suhey seriously wants to "gain 100 pounds or forget about it."

"He's playing behind two all-pros in my opinion in Hampton and McMichael," said Ditka.

"I'm working hard in practice, but it's still kinda rough because I haven't played that much. I've got to wait my turn," said Perry.

**HIS PATIENCE WAS** rewarded in a way he never dreamed about.

"I thought I might be on special teams a little and play defense in short yardage. I never thought I'd be carrying the ball or blocking for Walter," said Perry.

Still, Perry was not so overwhelmed by it all that it went

to his head. He couldn't even recall the exact terminology of the touchdown play.

**"IT WAS 34** lead trap, something like that," he said. His spike alone should make the highlight film.

"I tried to get all the air out of it," said Perry.

The *David Letterman Show* wants Perry as a guest and he said yes. It was only because he was asked. He said he had never seen the show and suspects Letterman "just wants to have some fun."

Ditka summed it up: "I don't want to belabor the point and I hope you don't. But recognition to a young man of William's stature is important. He was heralded and controversial out of Clemson and we took him. It's important we help him get his feet under him. It makes him feel like he's contributing more."

"If nobody ever says thanks for what you do, you don't feel very much appreciated. The way his year has gone, he could have been lost in the shuffle."

## Key Interceptions On Defense

# Walter Payton In Top Form vs. Minnesota

By Wally Gullick  
Bear Report Staff

During the first seven weeks of the 1985 season, the Bears proved to the skeptics that they are a legitimate Super Bowl contender, a claim that any 7-0 team can make.

To justify that claim, they have recorded their best start since 1942 by utilizing more than a top-ranked defense and an offense that has relied on more than a one-chapter playbook starring Walter Payton.

**IN WEEK EIGHT**, the results were the same, but the matter of execution was a flashback to Bear teams of recent years. Keeping their slate perfect at 8-0, winning 27-9 over division-rival Minnesota last Sunday before more than 63,000 at Soldier Field, the Bears prescribed to the formula of an awesome defense and they let the heart and soul of this organization for the past decade return to the center of the stage.

"Walter (Payton) isn't a bad guy to rely on," said head coach Ditka with a smirk. "I think you have to stuff them a little bit. People have picked up our defense and are playing it against us. We have to hit the wide receivers more, but we feel we know how to run against it also."

Few coaches have ever been able to boast about such a feat, but then again Ditka is the only coach in the league that can turn to Walter Payton.

Sweetness ran through the Vikings' version of the 4-6 defense for 118 yards at an average of 6.2 yards per carry. Catching the ball, Payton topped all receivers with five

receptions. His final grab was a one-handed snatch at the Viking 20, which he promptly turned into the game's final touchdown.

**"PAYTON SEEMS TO** be as good as he ever was. He certainly has been a credit to the game. I just wish he wouldn't be as creditable against us," said Viking skipper Bud Grant.

Payton has now scored seven touchdowns in his last four games, but unlike seasons past where he would have already put in a full season's worth of work for the average back, Payton and the Bears are anxious to put the throttle to the floor for the rest of the season.

It wasn't by design that the Bears would turn to Payton to headline the offense and lean on the defense to deliver a series of big plays. It was just the script the Bears chose to use this week, since Minnesota snuffed out the effectiveness of the Bear wide receivers.

**"OUR EXECUTION** was a little disappointing at times on offense," said Ditka. "I think we were rusty in spots and it hurt us, but I was impressed with the Vikings on defense, they played us outstanding."

Dennis McKinnon broke loose for a 33-yard strike on the opening drive to catch his seventh touchdown pass of the year, but it was his only catch of the afternoon. Willie Gault, who like McKinnon, enjoyed success at the expense of the Minnesota cornerbacks in a meeting against the Vikes a month ago, caught only one pass for just seven yards. This prompted Ditka to turn to the ground game

in order to put more space between the Bears and the now 4-4 Vikings.

McMahon missed on two of the three passes he threw in the third quarter and the only pass he completed went seven yards to Payton.

**IT WAS ALMOST** as if the Bear defense sensed their allies on offense needed a boost and linebackers Otis Wilson and Wilber Marshall took their turns at delivering the knock-out punch on back-to-back Viking possessions.

Forced into an unenviable third-and-11 from his own 28, the Bear pass rush stormed out of the blocks with Richard Dent nearly stripping the ball from QB Tommy Kramer as he prepared to throw. What he did do was jar Kramer's arm as he threw and the result was a wobbly effort that nestled into the arms of Otis Wilson like a dying quail at the Viking 23. Wilson responded with a 23-yard sprint down the sideline for his first touchdown in two years, the second of his career.

"I had the back as my responsibility and he stepped in the hole to block, so I screened in there so he wouldn't be able to come out for a pass," recalled Wilson. "Then the ball was tipped, came right to me and I just gathered it in with the hopes of getting as much as I could," added Wilson.

**FEATURING PRACTICALLY AN** all-out passing attack, the Vikings attempted to silence the crowd and gain momentum for the final frame in hopes of staging a comeback. Two rushes for seven yards were sandwiched around five straight completions (for 66 yards) by Kramer and it moved the Vikings to the Bears' two-yard line.

Marshall, whose performance has helped bury the hold-out stories of Al Harris, burned the Vikes with his second interception against them. His diving catch in front of Darin Nelson had the Vikings tossing in the towel.

"That play turned the game around. It killed any chance we may have had in getting any momentum going," said Kramer.

**"WE KNEW THEY** wouldn't be running in that situation, the past films of their offense showed us that," said Marshall, who was able to come up with the big play as Nelson was able to get only one hand on the ball.

"The defense was really the key in the third quarter," said Ditka. "Wilber Marshall does know a little bit about football you know, and he has a knack of timing. His interception on the goal line was just a great play."

If the Bears save enough of the big plays for the second half of the season, the NFL playoffs will come to Chicago for the first time in 22 years.

## League Rankings

After seven weeks of regular season play, the Bears' offense ranked second in the NFL (3rd rushing, 9th passing) and first in the NFC (2nd rushing, 5th passing). The offense also led the league in total points (212) and average time of possession (33:12). On defense, the Bears ranked 12th in the NFL (1st vs. rush, 22nd vs. pass) and sixth in the NFC (1st vs. rush, 10th vs. pass).

In individual categories, Willie Gault led the NFL in kickoff return average with a 30.4 mark. Placekicker Kevin Butler led the NFL in kick scoring with 66 points (14 field goals, 24 PATs). QB Jim McMahon ranked second in the NFC in passing with a 92.5 rating. RB Walter Payton ranked second in touchdown scoring with seven (six rushing, one passing). WR Dennis McKinnon was tied for third with six touchdowns. Payton ranked fourth in rushing with 534 yards.

Punter Maury Buford ranked second with a 45.5 average. DE Richard Dent was tied for fourth in sacks with seven.



MIKE HARTENSTINE (center) and Dan Hampton (99) put plenty of pressure on Viking quarterback Tommy Kramer. (Bear Report photo by Jonathan Daniel)



# Statistics Prove Defense Is Great

This sure beats the days of the 3-5 start, doesn't it? The 8-0 Chicago Bears head into Sunday's game at Green Bay with one of the best defenses in pro football, but this time there is a difference from previous years when the Monsters had the "D" but nothing else. They score points in bunches on both offense and defense.

**THIS DEFENSE IS** beginning to generate some eye-popping numbers. They have allowed only one TD in each of the last two games and none at San Francisco three weeks ago. It was the offense which surrendered that TD. The Packers' touchdown was set up by a fumble. The Vikings' only touchdown was set up by a pass interference



By  
Dick  
Gonski

call against Shaun Gayle. That's it in the last 12 quarters.

They have allowed 114 points at the midway point of the season (14 per game). They allowed 59 in their first three games and 55 points in the last five games, nine of those points given up on offense. They have performed with such efficiency that quarterbacks such as Joe Montana, Joe Theismann and Tommy Kramer walk off the field shaking their heads.

The Bears had five more interceptions last Sunday, giving the unit 21 on the season. Gary Fencik is closing in on the individual Bears' record of 37 held by Richie Peterson of the '63 champions. Fencik's total stands at 33. Ironically a linebacker is the team's leading interceptor. Wilber Marshall picked off two in the Vikings game and now has four. When you add Otis Wilson's paid, including a TD return last Sunday, it gives the Bear linebackers six of the team's 21 interceptions. That means that tight ends and running backs are exceptionally well covered by the defense.

**MARSHALL BEAMED** after the Minnesota win saying, "They (the Bears) gave me the opportunity to use my skills." But not at the beginning. "I watched a lot of film when I was sitting last year and I learned what Buddy Ryan



**AN OFFICIAL TELLS** Willie Gault he was out of bounds as he caught a pass in the third quarter. (Bear Report photo by Jonathan Daniel)



**TIGHT END EMERY** Moorehead keeps his balance to gain some extra yards on the opening touchdown drive. (Bear Report photo by Jonathan Daniel)

is looking for," he said. Reflecting on the year-long absence of Al Harris which opened the door for Marshall, the second-year man from Florida said, "It's us here and we had to come together and play with what we had." It's been good enough to go undefeated so far.

This defense has performed so well that it is now getting the ultimate compliment... it's being copied around the league.

"People have picked up on the 46 defense and are playing it against us," said coach Mike Ditka. "But we've been able to run against it with Walter Payton, even though you are supposed to beat it with the pass to a wide receiver in one-on-one coverage." Against Minnesota, the Bears rushed for 202 yards, 118 of them by Payton. In contrast, the Vikings rushed the ball just 14 times for 30 yards, a 2.1 average.

**ANOTHER STAT THAT** has to impress everyone around the league is that the defense has allowed only one touchdown in the second half in the last five games. That speaks volumes about Buddy Ryan's ability to analyze what is working against his defense, make the adjustments, and shut 'em down.

With the performance against Minnesota, the Bears went into the #1 slot in least points allowed in the season.

When you realize that the offense is #1 in scoring, you put together the obvious... this is the best team in pro football right now.

The only generosity shown by the defense this year is the fact that it loaned William Perry to the offense and he became an instant national celebrity. Even on offense, this defense excels.

**THEY DO WHAT** it takes. Like last week, Ditka said, "We had to take away Kramer's ability to step up in the pocket and we did." Tommy Kramer normally enjoys great success against the Bears. But you can't let this defense tee off. When a team has a minimum of confidence in its running game, the #1 defense is going to make 'em pay. The Vikes ran 14 times and threw 46 times. The result? Five interceptions and four sacks by the Bears' defense.

Next up is a trip to Green Bay on Sunday. The Packers have really hit upon hard times. They lost on *Monday Night Football* to the Bears despite four early turnovers by the Bears' offense. The Pack scored seven points despite the charity. Last Sunday, the Pack lost to the Colts and you must believe that coach Forrest Gregg is beginning to hear the rumbles in Green Bay. The faithful despised Bart Starr

Continued Page 13

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# Chicago Bears vs. Green Bay Packers



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12 Noon CST

## Chicago Bears' Numerical Roster

No.	Player	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Age	Yr.	College
4	Steve Fuller	QB	6-4	195	28	7	Clemson
6	Kevin Butler	K	6-1	204	23	R	Georgia
8	Mauri Buford	P	6-0	191	25	4	Texas Tech
9	Jim McMahon	QB	6-1	190	25	4	BYU
18	Mike Tomczak	QB	6-1	195	22	R	Ohio St.
21	Leslie Frazier	CB	6-0	187	26	5	Alcorn St.
22	Dave Duerson	S	6-1	203	24	3	Notre Dame
23	Shaun Gayle	CB	5-11	193	23	2	Ohio St.
26	Matt Suhey	FB	5-11	216	27	6	Penn St.
27	Mike Richardson	CB	6-0	188	24	3	Arizona St.
29	Dennis Gentry	RB	5-8	181	26	4	Baylor
31	Thomas Sanders	RB	5-11	203	23	R	Texas A&M
31	Ken Taylor	CB	6-1	185	21	R	Oregon St.
33	Calvin Thomas	FB	5-11	245	25	4	Illinois
34	Walter Payton	RB	5-10	202	31	11	Jackson St.
45	Gary Fencik	S	6-1	196	31	10	Yale
48	Reggie Phillips	DB	5-10	170	24	R	S. Methodist
50	Mike Singletary	LB	6-0	228	26	5	Baylor
51	Jim Morrissey	LB	6-3	215	22	R	Michigan St.
52	Cliff Thrift	LB	6-1	230	29	7	E.C. Oklahoma
55	Otis Wilson	LB	6-2	232	27	6	Louisville
57	Tom Thayer	G-C	6-4	261	23	R	Notre Dame
58	Wilber Marshall	LB	6-1	225	23	2	Florida
59	Ron Rivera	LB	6-3	239	23	2	California
60	Tom Andrews	OL	6-4	267	24	2	Louisville
62	Mark Bortz	G	6-6	269	24	3	Iowa
63	Jay Hilgenberg	C	6-3	258	26	5	Iowa
70	Henry Waechter	DT	6-5	275	26	4	Nebraska
71	Andy Frederick	T	6-6	265	31	9	New Mexico
72	William Perry	DT	6-2	325	22	R	Clemson
73	Mike Hartenstein	DE	6-3	254	32	11	Pennsylvania St.
74	Jim Covert	T	6-4	271	25	3	Pittsburgh
75	Stefan Humphries	G	6-3	263	23	2	Michigan
76	Steve McMichael	DT	6-2	260	27	6	Texas
78	Keith Van Horne	T	6-6	280	27	5	USC
80	Tim Wrightman	TE	6-3	237	25	R	UCLA
81	James Maness	WR	6-1	174	22	R	Texas Christian
82	Ken Margerum	WR	6-0	180	26	4	Stanford
83	Willie Gault	WR	6-0	178	24	3	Tennessee
85	Dennis McKinnon	WR	6-1	185	23	3	Florida St.
86	Brad Anderson	WR	6-2	198	24	2	Arizona
87	Emery Moorehead	TE	6-2	220	31	9	Colorado
95	Richard Dent	DE	6-5	263	24	3	Tennessee St.
98	Tyrone Keys	DE	6-7	267	25	3	Mississippi St.
99	Dan Hampton	DT	6-5	267	27	7	Arkansas

### COACHING STAFF

HEAD COACH: Mike Ditka

ASSISTANTS: Jim Dooley, Dale Haupt, Ed Hughes, Steve Kazor, Jim LaRue, Ted Plumb, Johnny Roland, Buddy Ryan, Dick Stanfel.



QUARTERBACK LYNN DICKEY

### Special to the BEAR REPORT

GREEN BAY, WI — A week before the Packers visited Chicago for a nationally-televised game vs. the Bears, Green Bay head coach Forrest Gregg didn't even want to discuss the contest.

When asked about it following a victory against Minnesota, he snapped at reporters and told them he wanted to savor the victory over the Vikings for awhile. Later in the week, he called the Bears "maybe one of the best teams in the NFL in the past 10 years."

THE GAME AT Soldier Field made his worries come true. Even though the Bears turned the ball over on fumbles on their first three possessions, the contest was never really in doubt as Mike Ditka's club waltzed to a 23-7 victory. The loss pushed the Packers to 3-4 on the season and they fell four games behind the front-running Bears in the division race. Any hopes of winning the NFC Central title went out the door.

"I think the thing that hurt us most, of course, is that we got the football early and were able to go in for only one score," said Gregg. "We had plenty of opportunity and wind up giving the ball back to them (via interceptions). Our defense is getting the ball for us and our offense is giving it back to them."

Gregg, a former All-Pro lineman, knew where the game was

## Green Bay Packers' Numerical Roster

No.	Name	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Age	Yr.	College
10	Al Del Greco	K	5-10	195	23	2	Auburn
11	Joe Prokop	P	6-2	225	25	1	Cal Poly Pomona
12	Lynn Dickey	QB	6-4	203	35	15	Kansas State
16	Randy Wright	QB	6-2	194	24	2	Wisconsin
18	Jim Zorn	QB	6-2	200	32	10	Cal Poly Pomona
22	Mark Lee	DB	5-11	186	27	6	Washington
24	Mossy Cade	DB	6-0	190	23	R	Texas
25	Harlan Huckleby	RB	6-1	201	27	6	Michigan
26	Tim Lewis	DB	5-11	191	23	3	Pittsburgh
27	Gary Hayes	DB	5-10	180	28	2	Fresno State
28	Mike McLeod	DB	6-0	180	27	2	Montana State
31	Gerry Ellis	FB	5-11	225	27	6	Missouri
33	Jessie Clark	FB	6-0	233	25	3	Arkansas
37	Mark Murphy	FS	6-2	201	27	5	West Liberty
40	Eddie Lee Ivery	HB	6-0	214	28	6	Georgia Tech
41	Tom Flynn	S	6-0	195	23	2	Pittsburgh
42	Gary Ellerson	RB	5-11	220	22	R	Wisconsin
43	Darryl Jones	DB	6-0	190	23	2	Georgia
51	Guy Prather	LB	6-2	229	27	5	Grambling
52	George Cumby	LB	6-0	224	28	6	Oklahoma
53	Mike Douglass	LB	6-0	214	30	8	San Diego State
55	Randy Scott	LB	6-1	222	26	5	Alabama
57	Rich Moran	C/G	6-2	272	23	R	San Diego State
58	Mark Cannon	C	6-3	258	23	2	Texas Arlington
59	John Anderson	LB	6-3	229	29	8	Michigan
60	Blake Moore	C/G	6-5	272	27	6	Wooster
65	Ron Hallstrom	G	6-6	283	26	4	Iowa
67	Karl Swank	T/C	6-6	262	27	6	Boston College
68	Greg Koch	T	6-4	276	29	9	Arkansas
70	Keith Uecker	G/T	6-5	283	25	4	Auburn
71	Mark Shumate	OL	6-5	265	25	1	Wisconsin
75	Ken Ruetters	OL	6-5	267	23	R	USC
76	Alphonso Carreker	DE	6-6	260	23	2	Florida State
79	Donnie Humphrey	DE	6-3	275	24	2	Auburn
80	James Lofton	WR	6-3	197	29	8	Stanford
82	Paul Coffman	TE	6-3	225	29	8	Kansas State
85	Phillip Epps	WR	5-9	155	26	4	Texas Christian
86	Ed West	TE	6-1	242	24	2	Auburn
87	Walter Stanley	WR/KR	5-9	180	22	R	Mesa College
88	Preston Dennard	WR	6-1	183	29	8	New Mexico
90	Ezra Johnson	DE	6-4	259	29	9	Morris Brown
91	Brian Noble	LB	6-3	237	22	R	Arizona State
93	Robert Brown	DE	6-2	250	25	4	VPI
94	Charles Martin	DT	6-4	270	26	2	Livingston
99	John Dorsey	LB	6-2	235	25	2	Connecticut

### Coaching Staff

Head Coach: Forrest Gregg

Assistant Coaches: Lew Carpenter, Virgil Knight, Dick Modzelewski, Herb Paterra, Chuck Pfeifer, Ken Riley, Bob Schnelker, Jerry Wampler

Continued Page 10



LB John Anderson



DE Alphonso Carreker



TE Paul Coffman



LB George Cumby



WR James Lofton





DEFENSIVE END RICHARD (95) Dent upends Green Bay quarterback Randy Wright in the Oct. 21 game. (Bear Report photo by Jonathan Daniel)



GREEN BAY RUNNING back Eddie Lee Ivery was held to just 25 rushing yards two weeks ago vs. the Bears. (Bear Report photo by Jonathan Daniel)

## Chicago vs. Green Bay Lineups

### Bears' Offense

WR 83 Willie Gault, 82 Ken Margerum  
LT 74 Jim Covert, 71 Andy Frederick  
LG 62 Mark Bortz, 57 Tom Thayer  
C 63 Jay Hilgenberg, 60 Tom Andrews  
RG 57 Tom Thayer, 75 Stefan Humphries  
RT 78 Keith Van Horne, 71 Andy Frederick  
TE 87 Emery Moorehead, 80 Tim Wrightman  
RB 34 Walter Payton, 29 Dennis Gentry  
FB 26 Matt Suhey, 33 Calvin Thomas  
QB 9 Jim McMahon, 4 Steve Fuller  
WR 85 Dennis McKinnon, 86 Brad Anderson

### Bears' Defense

LE 73 Mike Hartenstine, 98 Tyrone Keys  
LT 76 Steve McMichael, 72 William Perry  
RT 99 Dan Hampton, 72 William Perry  
RE 95 Richard Dent, 98 Tyrone Keys  
LLB 55 Otis Wilson, 51 Jim Morrissey  
MLB 50 Mike Singletary, 59 Ron Rivera  
RLB 58 Wilber Marshall, 59 Ron Rivera  
SS 22 Dave Duerson, 23 Shaun Gayle  
FS 45 Gary Fencik, 23 Shaun Gayle  
LC 27 Mike Richardson, 48 Reggie Phillips  
RC 21 Leslie Frazier, 31 Ken Taylor

### Bears' Specialists

PK 6 Kevin Butler  
P 8 Maury Buford  
PC 63 Jay Hilgenberg, 57 Tom Thayer  
KC 63 Jay Hilgenberg, 57 Tom Thayer  
H 4 Steve Fuller, 18 Mike Tomczak  
PR 31 Ken Taylor, 85 Dennis McKinnon  
KR 83 Willie Gault, 29 Dennis Gentry

### Packers' Defense

LE 76 Alphonso Carreker  
NT 94 Charlie Martin, 79 Donnie Humphrey  
RE 90 Ezra Johnson, 93 Robert Brown  
LOLB 59 John Anderson, 51 Guy Prather  
LILB 55 Randy Scott, 99 John Dorsey  
RILB 91 Brian Noble, 52 George Cumby  
ROLB 53 Mike Douglass, 51 Guy Prather  
LC 22 Mark Lee, 27 Gary Hayes  
RC 26 Tim Lewis, 24 Mossy Cade  
SS 37 Mark Murphy, 43 Darryl Jones  
FS 41 Tom Flynn, 28 Mike McLeod

### Packers' Offense

WR 80 James Lofton, 87 Walter Stanley  
LT 67 Karl Swanke, 75 Ken Ruettgens  
LG 70 Keith Uecker, 57 Rich Moran  
C 58 Mark Cannon, 60 Blake Moore  
RG 65 Ron Hallstrom, 71 Mark Shumate  
RT 68 Greg Koch, 67 Karl Swanke  
WR 85 Phillip Epps, 88 Preston Dennard  
TE 82 Paul Coffman, 86 Ed West  
QB 12 Lynn Dickey, 16 Randy Wright  
HB 31 Gerry Ellis, 40 Eddie Lee Ivery  
FB 33 Jessie Clark, 42 Gary Ellerson

### Packers' Specialists

K 10 Albert Del Greco  
P 11 Joe Prokop  
H 11 Joe Prokop  
PC 58 Mark Cannon  
KC 58 Mark Cannon  
KR 85 Phillip Epps, 42 Gary Ellerson  
PR 87 Walter Stanley, 85 Phillip Epps

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# Packers

Continued From Page 8

really won and lost: in the trenches.

"**THEY CONTROLLED** the line of scrimmage on us — their defense controlled the line of scrimmage on us. They really whipped us up front. And I knew that was where the ball game would be," Gregg said. "I knew it going into the game — there was no question about what it would be. It gets into just being a very personal thing — you against the other guy. And if he likes you, you get beat. And that's basically what happened."

During his post-game press conference, Gregg was asked how far away the Packers are from beating the Bears.

"I don't think we're a long way away," Gregg said. "I don't think we're there, because they're a better football team than we are. They have better personnel than we do, and I think that was obvious tonight when you saw the game."

**AS IS THE CASE** with any Bear-Packer contest, the game featured a lot of aggressive play and many near fights.

"It was pretty intense out there. It's a big rivalry," said LB Brian Noble. "There are people out there playing for a lot of pride. I found out tonight how much this game means to a lot of people. I think they were trying to intimidate us. But we're not going to be intimidated. I think with the right things happening, we should have beaten them."

One of the Packer players who got into a "near fight" with a Bear was backup quarterback Jim Zorn. Following a blocked field goal attempt by the Bears, Zorn, the holder on the play, was wrestled to the ground by Bear linebacker Wilber Marshall.

"**I WAS TRYING** to tell him the play was over," Zorn said. "Finally, when he kept coming at me, I tried to grab him and throw him down, but he's a pretty strong guy and I wound up on the bottom." Zorn admitted the incident should have never taken place.

"It all comes from a lack of composure," he said. "There's no way we should be getting into a fight out there on the field. That's telling we we're losing control out there. I still don't think there's room for it. We have enough class not to get into fights when the play is over."

Bears' head coach Mike Ditka pulled out a variety of "trick"

plays out of his playbook in the game. Among them was using 310-pound DT William Perry on offense in goal line situations. He blocked for Walter Payton on two short touchdown runs and carried the ball on another one-yarder for six points.

"**HE'S A VERY** versatile athlete," said Gregg of Perry. "He covers kickoffs, plays defensive tackle, plays nose tackle, and also plays football on their short yardage. No, it didn't surprise me they used him on short yardage. Hell, they used him last week (vs. the 49ers)."

Linebacker George Cumby was flattened on both Payton TD runs by the Fridge.

"He's a big man. You've got to hit him low. You've got to tackle him low," said DE Robert Brown.

**SOME OF THE** Packer personnel criticized Ditka for using Perry on the goal line, saying it was a slap in their faces. Ditka responded harshly.

"When opposing coaches tell me how to coach my football team, then our record will probably be 3-4 also," Ditka said.

## Doug's Picks

**BEARS** by SEVEN over PACKERS  
*Gregg will have his team ready.*

**BENGALS** by SIX over BILLS  
*Cincinnati is waking up.*

**STEELERS** by SIX over BROWNS  
*Cleveland never wins at Three Rivers.*

**BRONCOS** by TEN over CHARGERS  
*Denver is red hot.*

**VIKINGS** by TWO over LIONS  
*Detroit's bubble will burst.*

**OILERS** by SEVEN over CHIEFS  
*Houston is on a roll.*

**RAIDERS** by FOUR over SEAHAWKS  
*Seattle is long gone.*

**DOLPHINS** by SIX over PATRIOTS  
*Miami bounces back.*

**RAMS** by SIX over SAINTS  
*Los Angeles forgets about loss.*

**JETS** by FIVE over COLTS  
*Indy will make it interesting.*

**49ERS** by SEVEN over EAGLES  
*San. Fran. is back on track.*

**GIANTS** by TEN over BUCCANEERS  
*Tampa Bay just can't win.*

**REDSKINS** by FOUR over FALCONS  
*Washington is still alive.*

**COWBOYS** by TEN over CARDINALS  
*St. Louis is pitiful.*

Last week's record: 6-7 vs. final line (46 percent)

Actual winners: 9 out of 13 (69 percent)

Season record: 60-51 vs. final line (54 percent)

Actual winners: 73 out of 111 (65.7 percent)

**NOTE:** Doug makes his picks before the opening lines are announced.



**RUNNING BACK WALTER** Payton (34) found a few holes in the Green Bay defense as he rushed for 112 yards on Oct. 21. (Bear Report photo by Jonathan Daniel)

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# Mongo Plays Football the Old-Fashioned Way

If Steve McMichael is viewed as a barely domesticated defensive tackle who opens beer bottles with brick walls and snacks on offensive linemen's fingers, it's only because he has done little to discourage the caricature.

When the Bears started dipping into the national limelight last year, the week before the NFC Championship Game, McMichael aroused reporters like a motorcycle cutting across a putting green. They wanted to know, for example, where he would be now if he hadn't gone into pro football.

"JAIL," he said.

For what crimes? "I don't know. Molesting collies, I guess."

McMichael also recalled one of his amusing diversions when he was enrolled at the University of Texas. A bridge near the campus ran over a stream 20 feet below. McMichael and his roommate used to dangle people from the bridge by their ankles. "Sometimes we'd actually let them hang on to the bridge and stamp on their fingers," he said.

**HE DOESN'T DO** that sort of thing anymore, though. "When you start making money, lawyers see that and start slapping lawsuits anymore."

The footsteps of McMichael's legendary youth have proven a hard act to follow. For a long time, people overlooked the football player for the folklore. He was considered a wild and crazy guy who played some ball to kill time between hijinks, not the other way around.

It always has been the other way around. "Our favorite quotation," says Dan Hampton, the Bears' other defensive tackle, "is from *North Dallas Forty*: 'Thank God for football.' He's the kind of guy, when he was growing up, the other kids said, 'Let's go play some baseball or basketball.' And he'd say, 'Naw, let's go play tackle in the street.'"

**McMICHAEL ENJOYS** playing football more than he enjoys being a football player. Few players can say that these days. With the trappings of national media and contracts the size of emerging nations' gross national products, many players have come conglomerates in shoulder pads. Not McMichael.

He'd play for nothing if he had to. That's such a cliché,

but McMichael has said it shamelessly.

"He's a throwback to the old black, high-top shoes guys," defensive coordinator Buddy Ryan says. "To the old kind of guys, who'd line up and whup you and didn't worry about anything else."

**"IT'S PRETTY HARD** to get too many of those, too. There's still a place for them in society. Especially in football."

And McMichael's place in football is becoming more and more solid. "He's our best defensive lineman right now," coach Mike Ditka says, fully aware Hampton and Richard Dent are on the same line.

By  
Kevin  
Lamb



He's still a character. He's still the guy who picks up napping teammates in the locker room and throws them to the floor. "He likes to holler, 'Greg (The Hammer) Valentine with another body slam,'" Hampton says.

**HE STILL MAKES** rude offers of facial realignments to any offensive lineman brazen enough to block him near the knees in practice. He still laughs in linemen's faces after beating their blocks in practice. "Then when you block him," center Jay Hilgenberg says, "you smile at him and he kicks you in the shin."

But McMichael has become so much more than just a character who inspires punch lines. He has become a leading character on the dramatic adventures of the best team in pro football.

For one thing, he's not such a wild and crazy guy any-

more. He was married in the off-season, and he says his new wife, Debra, has settled him down. His marriage has freed up barstools all over town.

**"THANK GOD FOR** that," he says. "I think it really adds to my football because I can concentrate on it more now. In the past it was, 'Oh, practice is over. What can I [deleted] up now.'"

McMichael didn't even go rattlesnake hunting in the off-season. That used to be a good way to make money growing up in Texas, and it evolved into an avocation. He used a four-foot pole with a noose on the end. If the rattler was sleeping, it was harmless because snakes can't spring unless they're coiled. If the rattler was awake, it would alert him from 20 yards away, when it sensed his presence and started rattling.

"I tried to explain it wasn't that dangerous," he says of his conversation with Debra on the subject. "She didn't understand, for some reason."

**FOR ANOTHER THING**, it may surprise a lot of McMichael's fans to learn he's actually a wily and crazy guy.

"He's very intelligent, on and off the field," Hilgenberg says. "He knows an awful lot about pass rushing and fighting off run blocks."

"He helps get the other guys lined up, especially when he's got Biscuit in there with him," Ryan says, using the players' nickname for rookie defensive tackle William Perry.

**SO WHY CAN'T** people take him more seriously?

Maybe it's because he talks the way he plays, cramming a lot of impact into a little time. Most athletes ramble. McMichael says his piece in one or two short sentences, then waits patiently for the next question.

People tend to pay more attention to his grunts than the words between them. Maybe it's because his voice sounds like a car that won't quite start on a cold day, or because he uses words that make him a dangerous interview on live minicams.

**OR MAYBE IT'S** just hard to imagine someone who has earned the nicknames Mongo and Ming the Merciless having an IQ bigger than his chest size.

Continued Page 13



DEFENSIVE TACKLE STEVE McMichael (76) tries to fight off a few Vikings. (Bear Report photo by Jonathan Daniel)

## ★ IMAGINE



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## Still Tops In Poll

For the fourth consecutive week, the Bears received all 70 first place votes in a poll of the board of directors of the Pro Football Writers Association. The Bears are also ranked first in polls which appeared in last week's editions of the FOOTBALL NEWS and the DALLAS COWBOYS WEEKLY.

## Eight-Game Totals

# Bears' Cumulative Stats

1985 Regular Season										Bears 8-0									
RESULTS AND ATTENDANCE (Actual)										RUSHING		No.	Yds.	Avg.	LG	TD			
S 8 (S)	Chicago 38	Tampa Bay 28	57,828							W Payton	134	652	4.9	26	6				
S 15 (S)	Chicago 20	New England 7	60,533							M Suhey	59	243	4.1	17	1				
S 19 (MN)	Chicago 33	Minnesota 24	61,242							J McMahon	31	185	6.0	19	2				
S 29 (S)	Chicago 45	Washington 10	63,708							T Sanders	18	77	4.3	28	0				
O 6 (TB)	Chicago 27	Tampa Bay 19	51,795							D Gentry	14	56	4.0	15	1				
O 13 (SF)	Chicago 26	San Francisco 10	60,523							C Thomas	11	40	3.6	11	0				
O 21 (S)	Chicago 23	Green Bay 7	65,095							S Fuller	6	11	1.8	8	0				
O 27 (S)	Chicago 27	Minnesota 9	63,815							W Gault	3	7	2.3	5	0				
										W Perry	3	5	1.7	2	1				
N 3 (GB)	Chicago at Green Bay		12:00							M Tomczak	1	0	.0	0	0				
N 10 (S)	Detroit at Chicago		12:00							D McKinnon	1	0	.0	0	0				
N 17 (DA)	Chicago at Dallas		12:00																
N 24 (S)	Atlanta at Chicago		12:00							BEARS TOTAL	281	1276	4.5	28	11				
D 2 (MI)	Chicago at Miami		8:00							Opp. Total	167	639	3.8	37	3				
D 8 (S)	Indianapolis at Chicago		12:00							RECEIVING		No.	Yds.	Avg.	LG	TD			
D 14 (NY)	Chicago at New York Jets		11:30							W Payton	29	217	7.5	33	2				
D 22 (DT)	Chicago at Detroit		12:00							D McKinnon	24	454	18.9	48	7				
TEAM STATISTICS										M Suhey	23	167	7.3	21	1				
			Bears			Opponent				E Moorehead	22	298	13.5	25	1				
TOTAL FIRST DOWNS			174			131				W Gault	19	380	20.0	70	1				
Rushing			80			36				T Wrightman	10	187	18.7	49	0				
Passing			84			89				K Margerum	10	103	10.3	18	0				
Penalty			10			6				C Thomas	5	45	9.0	15	0				
3rd Down: Made/Att.			40-106			31-103				J Maness	1	34	34.0	34	0				
4th Down: Made/Att.			1- 4			3- 6				J McMahon	1	13	13.0	13	1				
TOTAL NET YARDS			3095			2445				B Anderson	1	6	6.0	6	0				
Avg. Per Game			386.9			305.6													
Total Plays			539			498													
Avg. Per Play			5.7			4.9													
NET YARDS RUSHING			1276			639				BEARS TOTAL									
Avg. Per Game			159.5			79.9				Opp. Total									
Total Rushes			281			167				INTERCEPTIONS									
NET YARDS PASSING			1819			1806				No.									
Avg. Per Game			227.4			225.8				Yds.									
Tackled/Yards Lost			16- 85			32- 225				Avg.									
Gross Yards			1904			2031				LG									
Attempts/Completions			242- 145			299- 152				TD									
Pct. of Completions			59.9			50.8				W Marshall									
Had Intercepted			8			21				4									
PUNTS/AVERAGE			34- 45.7			48- 41.9				D Duerson									
NET PUNTING AVG.			37.4			34.4				3									
PENALTIES/YARDS			54- 438			70- 544				L Frazier									
FUMBLES/BALL LOST			14- 9			14- 8				3									
TOUCHDOWNS			27			14				G Fencik									
Rushing			11			3				3									
Passing			13			10				M Richardson									
Returns			3			1				2									
SCORE BY PERIODS			1	2	3	4	OT	Total	O Wilson										
BEARS TOTAL			40	77	72	50	0	239	2										
Opp. Total			31	53	7	23	0	114	K Taylor										
SCORING			TDR	TDP	TDRt	PAT	FG	S	TP	22									
K Butler			0	0	0	27-27	16-20	0	75	5									
W Payton			6	2	0	0-0	0-0	0	48	3									
D McKinnon			0	7	0	0-0	0-0	0	42	0									
J McMahon			2	1	0	0-0	0-0	0	18	26									
M Suhey			1	1	0	0-0	0-0	0	12	8.7									
W Gault			0	1	1	0-0	0-0	0	12	10									
O Wilson			0	0	1	0-0	0-0	1	8	.0									
L Frazier			0	0	1	0-0	0-0	0	6	47									
D Gentry			1	0	0	0-0	0-0	0	6	4.5									
W Perry			1	0	0	0-0	0-0	0	6	5									
E Moorehead			0	1	0	0-0	0-0	0	6	12.7									
										10.0									
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## A Young Team

The Bears are the youngest football team in the National Conference, averaging 25.1 years.

## Second Best Record

The Bears are tied with the San Francisco 49ers with the second best record (23-7) over the last 30 regular season games. Miami has the best mark at 25-5.

# NFL SCHEDULE

## FIFTH WEEK

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 6

CHICAGO BEARS 27, Tampa Bay Buccaneers 19  
Green Bay Packers 43, Detroit Lions 10  
L.A. Rams 13, Minnesota Vikings 10  
Miami Dolphins 24, Pittsburgh Steelers 20  
Indianapolis Colts 49, Buffalo Bills 17  
New Orleans Saints 23, Philadelphia Eagles 21  
N.Y. Jets 29, Cincinnati Bengals 20  
L.A. Raiders 19, Kansas City Chiefs 10  
Cleveland Browns 24, New England Patriots 20  
Seattle Seahawks 26, San Diego Chargers 21  
Denver Broncos 31, Houston Oilers 20  
Dallas Cowboys 30, N.Y. Giants 29  
San Francisco 49ers 38, Atlanta Falcons 17

MONDAY, OCTOBER 7

Washington Redskins 27, St. Louis Cardinals 10

## SIXTH WEEK

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 13

CHICAGO BEARS 26, San Francisco 49ers 10  
Green Bay Packers 20, Minnesota Vikings 17  
L.A. Rams 31, Tampa Bay Buccaneers 27  
New England Patriots 14, Buffalo Bills 3  
Cleveland Browns 21, Houston Oilers 6  
Denver Broncos 15, Indianapolis Colts 10  
Washington Redskins 24, Detroit Lions 3  
Cincinnati Bengals 35, N.Y. Giants 30  
Philadelphia Eagles 30, St. Louis Cardinals 7  
Dallas Cowboys 27, Pittsburgh Steelers 13  
L.A. Raiders 23, New Orleans Saints 13  
San Diego Chargers 31, Kansas City Chiefs 20  
Seattle Seahawks 30, Atlanta Falcons 26

MONDAY, OCTOBER 14

N.Y. Jets 23, Miami Dolphins 7

## SEVENTH WEEK

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 20

Detroit Lions 23, San Francisco 49ers 21  
Minnesota Vikings 21, San Diego Chargers 17  
Miami Dolphins 41, Tampa Bay Buccaneers 38  
Houston Oilers 44, Cincinnati Bengals 27  
Philadelphia Eagles 16, Dallas Cowboys 14  
Buffalo Bills 21, Indianapolis Colts 9  
L.A. Raiders 21, Cleveland Browns 20  
L.A. Rams 16, Kansas City Chiefs 0  
Atlanta Falcons 31, New Orleans Saints 24  
N.Y. Giants 17, Washington Redskins 3  
Pittsburgh Steelers 23, St. Louis Cardinals 10  
New England Patriots 20, N.Y. Jets 13  
Denver Broncos 13, Seattle Seahawks 10 (OT)

MONDAY, OCTOBER 21

CHICAGO BEARS 23, Green Bay Packers 7

## EIGHTH WEEK

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 27

CHICAGO BEARS 27, Minnesota Vikings 9  
Indianapolis Colts 37, Green Bay Packers 10  
Detroit Lions 31, Miami Dolphins 21  
New England Patriots 32, Tampa Bay Buccaneers 14  
Dallas Cowboys 24, Atlanta Falcons 10  
Philadelphia Eagles 21, Buffalo Bills 17  
Denver Broncos 30, Kansas City Chiefs 10  
Houston Oilers 20, St. Louis Cardinals 10  
N.Y. Jets 17, Seattle Seahawks 14  
Washington Redskins 14, Cleveland Browns 7  
Cincinnati Bengals 27, Pittsburgh Steelers 21  
N.Y. Giants 21, New Orleans Saints 13  
San Francisco 49ers 28, L.A. Rams 14

MONDAY, OCTOBER 28

San Diego at L.A. Raiders ..... 6 p.m.

## NINTH WEEK

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 3

BEARS at Green Bay ..... Noon  
Tampa Bay at N.Y. Giants ..... 1 p.m.  
Detroit at Minnesota ..... Noon  
Cincinnati at Buffalo ..... 1 p.m.  
Cleveland at Pittsburgh ..... 1 p.m.  
Denver at San Diego ..... 1 p.m.  
Kansas City at Houston ..... Noon  
L.A. Raiders at Seattle ..... 1 p.m.  
Miami at New England ..... 1 p.m.  
New Orleans at L.A. Rams ..... 1 p.m.  
N.Y. Jets at Indianapolis ..... 4 p.m.  
Philadelphia at San Francisco ..... 1 p.m.  
Washington at Atlanta ..... 1 p.m.

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 4

Dallas at St. Louis ..... (ABC) 8 p.m.

## Bears' Radio Network

WGN	Illinois	WCOE	LaPorte
WDWS	Chicago (flagship)	WTCA	Plymouth
WDZ	Champaign	WRIN	Rockford
WFPS	Decatur	WSBT	South Bend
WAKO	Freeport		
WRAM	Lawrenceville		
WMBD	Monmouth		
WROK	Peoria		
WJEF (FM)	Pontiac	KLBA	Iowa
WGEM	Pontiac	KOPS	Albia
WFRX	Quincy	KCRG	Burlington
	West Frankfort	KKZK	Cedar Rapids
		WHO	Davenport
		KDTH	Des Moines
		KOKX	Dubuque
			Hickory
WEZR	Indiana		
	Fort Wayne		



## Third String Behind Payton

# Thomas Sanders Will Never Quit

For Thomas Sanders, not receiving approval has been an opportunity, not something to be worried about.

Prior to his senior season at Texas A&M, the running back was being counted out by football observers around the Southwest Conference. But Sanders was working hard at a comeback few thought he was capable of making.

**HE WAS TRYING** to get beyond a crippling condition which had caused part of his chest to atrophy following surgery for a herniated disc after his sophomore season.

Even though he had not been expected to even be in uniform in 1984, Sanders arrived in College Station in August with medical approval to play. By season's end he was the Aggies' leading rusher with 738 yards on 167 carries.

He climaxed his senior year by being voted winner of

football game and the school's well-regarded industrial arts program.

**(SANDERS DESIGNS HIS** own furniture and is now well-versed, because of having earned his industrial arts degree from A&M, in the basic elements of construction and manufacturing.)

The odds he faced after the last National Football League draft also didn't favor Sanders. The Bears' ninth-round selection was the 246th player chosen. Nonetheless Sanders persevered and won a spot on the roster.

It's not easy to be optimistic about Sanders' chances once more. He's a third-stringer backing up second-teamer Dennis Gentry. And Gentry plays second fiddle to one of the most outstanding running backs in the history of professional football — Walter Payton.

Sanders is a realistic person. He entertains no notions whatsoever of beating out Payton, whose premiere status obviously doesn't auger well for the rookie's playing time. Sanders views the presence of the most famous teammate ("Walter Payton is the greatest player I've ever played with") as, again, an opportunity, a chance to acclimate himself to the NFL without the pressure of being a player big things are expected of.

Sanders is concentrating on learning his position, waiting for a time he's optimistic will come. He's content, just happy for now to have made the ball club. After all, he's learned that performance is in what is done, not in what is predicted.

By  
Michael  
Haggerty



the university's prestigious Aggie Heart Award, given on an annual basis to the Texas A&M athlete who personifies intestinal fortitude and determination, commodities Sanders has shown he has in abundance.

**THOMAS SANDERS IS** a person who makes his own decisions — instead of relying on those of others — about his worth and potential.

After a whirlwind career as a high school All-American in the Texas hamlet of Giddings, Sanders was much sought after by schools from all over the country. As a youngster he had idolized the Longhorns of the University of Texas, so the Austin school was the first college on his preference list.

On his recruiting visit to the university, Sanders found himself being pressed at every turn to sign a tender with the Longhorns, and he didn't like the rush he was getting. When he balked, exasperating Longhorn coaches "pulled" the offer.

**INSTEAD OF TRYING** to retrieve the scholarship at Texas, Sanders turned his attention to A&M, which is located just an hour west of Giddings. A&M didn't force an immediate deadline on him. Things were done in a leisurely manner.

Sanders genuinely liked what he saw during the recruiting process. He found that he mixed easily with the player and coaches.

He felt at home with the tremendous history of the central Texas university, the school spirit, the fabled cadet corps that stands as A&M's "12th man" throughout each

## Defense

Continued From Page 7  
for much less.

This is Gregg's chance for redemption. The Bears are the only unbeaten team in the NFL and a win Sunday would be a feather in Gregg's cap.

To beat the Bears the Packers must score against this increasingly stingy Bear defense. They must overcome all of the impressive stats this team is generating. And perhaps most importantly, they must overcome the problems this team experienced in the preseason when Paul Coffman noted that the front office's tightness with the buck could destroy this team's morale. Couple that with a lousy first half of the season and you've got the makings of a team in disarray.

Mike Ditka's Bears have won 23 of their last 30 games and 14 of its last 15 against NFC Central Division competition. In that stretch only one team has beaten the Bears more than once. You guessed it... the Green Bay Packers. Don't take this game for granted. It'll be a typical Bear-Packer donkeybrook.

## Next Week's Issue

Next week's issue of the **BEAR REPORT** will feature extensive coverage of the Bears-Packers game which will be played at Lambeau Field on Sunday. It will also include a detailed preview of the upcoming home contest vs. the Detroit Lions.

## Mongo

Continued From Page 11

He likes to hit people, yes. He loves it even. He loves it because he loves football. That's all. "That's the whole game, isn't it?" he says. "Without hitting, we'd be out there playing flag football."

He doesn't glorify hitting, doesn't drone on and on about the pleasures of pain. "I haven't seen him head-butting the wall before a game to get himself ready," Hampton says.

**HE'LL ADMIT TO** liking pain. Playing football means playing in pain, he says, so "to a certain extent, you have to like it." But not for its own sake.

"Satisfaction," McMichael says. That's what playing in pain gives him. "The thought that you can do something most people can't do, even think about doing."

He doesn't say he hates quarterbacks, as so many pass rushers do. "I feel sorry for them," he says. "But I feel sorry for my dog, and I still beat him when he screws up."

**McMICHAEL IS SMART** enough to draw a bold line between anger and aggression. "You can't play this game mad at anyone," he says. "You get in a fight, they'll kick your butt out of the game."

He tries to bury the quarterback every time he rushes the passer. He knows he won't, but he turns that fatalism against the quarterback.

"After a couple plays of being held or pushed," he says, "that just ticks you off and intensifies you."

**DITKA SAYS McMICHAEL'S** intensity reminds him of Cowboy All-Pro Randy White. "He goes full-bore all the time," Hilgenberg says. Even in practice.

"You're not going to learn anything going half-fast in practice," McMichael says.

He sugar-coats nothing. When the Bears first tried him out, they wanted to move him to center. McMichael almost shudders at the thought.

"I **THINK PLAYING** offensive line's a lot of crap," he says. "You just fall down left and fall down right, don't you? I know they talk tough at times. But when a guy drops back to pass, the offensive linemen are just punching bags."

One of the first books McMichael read was Dick Butkus' autobiography. "I've been trying to pattern my football after his ever since," he says.

Hampton has seen a first-half reel of one of McMichael's high school games.

**"HE'S AT TIGHT** end and he catches a touchdown pass," Hampton recalls. "Then they put him in the backfield in the wishbone and he runs for a touchdown. Then they pitch out to him and he throws a touchdown pass. He kicks off, kicks the points after touchdown. At linebacker on defense, he makes about 15 tackles."

"He did all this stuff. Then he said, 'Let's watch the second half.'"

"I said, 'Hell, no. I can only sit through 'Citizen Kane' once myself.'"



**ROOKIE THOMAS SANDERS** trots onto the field as he replaced Walter Payton in the closing minutes. (Bear Report photo by Jonathan Daniel)

## High Ratings

The nationally-televised *Monday Night Football* Bears-Packers game was the highest-rated NFL contest of the season. The game received a 21.0 rating and 35 share of the audience. In Chicago, the game received a 44.2 rating and 63 share.

"We were helped by the big Chicago audience, the Bears-Packers rivalry, and the trend toward more interest in *Monday Night Football* this year," said ABC's Irv Brodsky.

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ST. MAARTEN, N.A.



# Undefeated

Continued From Page 3

outstanding," Ditka said.

"**THE BEARS HAVE** great players and they made the plays," said Minnesota head coach Bud Grant.

If there was one key play in the game, it was recorded by second-year LB Wilber Marshall. After the Bears had taken a 20-7 lead early in the third quarter on a 23-yard interception return for a touchdown by LB Otis Wilson, Kramer quickly drove his team downfield and it appeared the Vikings were about to get back into the contest. But on second-and-goal at the Chicago one, Marshall intercepted a pass intended for RB Darrin Nelson.

"You have to be an athlete to make the kinds of plays Marshall is making," said Ditka. "I guess he knows a little bit about football. He certainly has a knack of timing. That interception on the goal line was a great play."

**FROM THE OUTSET** of the contest, it appeared the Bears would have no trouble from the Vikings. Following the opening kickoff, the Bears marched 78 yards for their first touchdown on just seven plays. The drive included two 15-yard passes to TE Emery Moorehead and was capped with a 33-yard touchdown strike from McMahon to McKinnon.

"It was an audible. A great call," said Ditka. "It was gonna be a quick screen to the outside guy (WR Willie Gault) and he went with the audible off the flat."

Later in the opening quarter, the Bears increased their lead to 10-0 when Kevin Butler connected on a 40-yard field goal into a stiff northerly wind. The 43-yard drive which set up the three-pointer included a 17-yard pass to Moorehead and two eight-yard runs by Payton.

**ON THE FIRST** play of the second quarter, the Vikings got their only break of the game. Kramer threw the ball up for grabs and Bear DB Shaun Gayle ran into Viking WR Mike Jones. The refs ruled pass interference and Minnesota got the ball at the Chicago five. Two plays later, Nelson scored on a one-yard touchdown run and the visitors cut the lead to 10-7.

"We had a blitz on that play. It was really an incompleteness if Shaun hadn't run into him. I've seen that play called both ways," said Ditka.

"It was one of those things," said Gayle. "The ball was underthrown. I was trying to look back at the ball and the receiver cut under me. They really shouldn't have had any points today."

**BEFORE THE HALF** ended, McMahon engineered a classic one-minute drill. The Bears got the ball back at their own 34 with 1:03 left and McMahon drove the team down to Viking 11 before Butler hit on a 29-yard field goal to make it 13-7. The drive included nine and 11-yard passes to FB Matt Suhey, and a 12-yard run by Payton.

The Vikings still had a chance to make a game out of it in the second half, but the Bear defense had other ideas. On a third-and-11 at the Minnesota 28, Kramer went back to pass. The ball was tipped by DE Richard Dent and flew into the hands of Wilson. After Wilson caught it, he raced 23 yards into the end zone to make it 20-7 Bears.

"We were in man coverage," said Wilson. "The back was my responsibility. He stepped up in the hole to block but I wanted to make sure he wasn't going to come out for a pass. I scrambled in there and the ball was tipped. I gathered it in and tried to get as much yardage as I could. It turned into a touchdown."

**KRAMER, WHO IS** a comeback specialist, got the Viking passing game in gear following the Wilson score. He completed five consecutive passes and Minnesota was knocking on the scoring door. But the door jammed when Marshall picked off a pass intended for Nelson at the three-yard line. He returned the ball for an apparent touchdown but the refs ruled he was down.

"We pretty much had double coverage down there," said Marshall. "We saw Darrin coming out of the backfield and they wanted to pick us. We both went for it and I wrestled it away. I went down but nobody touched me

so I got up and ran with it." Later in the game, Marshall picked off another pass and now leads the team with four interceptions.

"I want to do my best to help the team out. We have a lot in front of us," Marshall said. "Things like that give me a lot of confidence. But I wouldn't have gotten those interceptions today if it wasn't for the rush. It was unbelievable."

"**THE BEARS HAVE** already equalled their interception total of last season with 21. They have recorded nine in the past two games.

"That's just tremendous. It's outstanding," said Ditka.

Ditka also labeled the Bears' final touchdown of the game "outstanding." Midway through the fourth quarter, McMahon connected with Payton on a 20-yard touchdown pass to make it 27-9. Payton caught the ball one-handed and then ran untouched into the end zone.

"**THAT WAS THE** right call because they came with the all-out blitz. Jim did a great job of backing away from everybody because they came with an all-out blitz," said Ditka.

"They were blitzing everybody on that side and I had to work my way through a split screen," said Payton. "Jim, the quarterback that he is, just lofted the ball up because nobody was back there and I caught it. I didn't know if I would be hit or not but I can't be concerned with that. I caught the ball and started toward the goal post and the rest was easy getting it in."

While it was Payton's only scoring play of the day, Ditka made it clear it was Payton's running prowess which really made a difference in the contest. He racked up 118 yards on 19 carries (6.2 average) and guided the team to 202 rushing yards.

"**YOU'VE GOT TO** stuff them up a little bit once in awhile," said Ditka. "What other teams are doing is they have picked up our 46 defense and are playing it against us. We feel we know how to run against it. Walter was just outstanding. I just can't say enough about it."

The Bears, who are now 5-0 in division play, have NFC Central matchups the next two weeks. They play at Green Bay next Sunday and come home the following week to battle the Lions.

"If we beat Green Bay and knock Detroit off, it will take some kind of miracle to knock us out," said Wilson.

"As long as we keep our heads on straight and look straight ahead we'll be O.K.," said Ditka.

**GAME NOTES:** Running back Walter Payton is just 39 yards shy of 14,000 career rushing yards. . . . The Bears are 13-0 in games in which WR Dennis McKinnon has caught a touchdown pass since he joined the team in 1983. . . . The Bears have won 14 of their last 16 games at Soldier Field and 16 of their last 18 against NFC Central teams. . . . They are 19-4 in the last 23 games Jim McMahon has started and have won 17 of their last 21 on artificial turf. . . . The Bears have allowed only 30 second half points. . . . The Bears have six straight wins over NFC Central teams. . . . They have outrushed 27 of their last 30 opponents and have outrushed and outgained seven of their eight opponents this season. . . . Since 1984, the Bears are 15-1 in games which they led at halftime and 15-1 in games in which they outsacked their opponent. . . . They have outsacked 24 of their last 26 opponents. . . . The Bears are plus-12 in turnover differential. . . . They controlled the clock for 9½ more minutes than the Vikings. . . . McMahon's quarterback rating has dropped to 91.2. . . . the Bears are averaging 386 yards per game while allowing opponents to average 305 per contest. . . . The Bears are scoring an average of 30 points a contest while holding foes to 14 per game. . . . PK Kevin Butler is the team's leading scorer with 75 points followed by Payton with 48. . . . Gary Fencik is the tackle leader with 68 (55 solos) while Mike Singletary has 58 (44 solos). . . . Richard Dent is the sack leader with seven while Steve McMichael has 5½. . . . Dennis Gentry is the special team's tackle leader with seven solos. . . . DT William Perry record-



**CORNERBACK KEN TAYLOR** records the second interception of his pro career. (Bear Report photo by Jonathan Daniel)

ed his first pro sack vs. the Vikings. "Kramer was right in my face and I got him down," said Perry. "It was fun." Ditka was asked if Perry will be used on offense vs. the Packers next Sunday. "We'll use the reverse with him next week," the coach said. When asked if Perry will get a chance to throw a pass one day, Ditka responded: "As soon as he jumps over the goal post." . . . With starting CB Mike Richardson nursing a strained hamstring, rookie Ken Taylor saw considerable action vs. Minnesota. "I thought they would pick on me more," Taylor said. "When I was in there, I told (Dave) Duerson and (Gary) Fencik to help me out." Ditka said: "I was pleased with the play of Kenny Taylor."

## All Tickets Gone

There are no tickets available for the Bears' final three regular season home games. Because of the sell outs, these contests will be televised live in the Chicago area.

## Live Television, Radio

Next Sunday's game, vs. the Packers at Lambeau Field, will be televised live in the Chicago-area on WBBM-TV (Channel 2). The telecast begins with *The Mike Ditka Show* at 11 a.m. CST. The game will also be carried live on the WGN (720) Bears' radio network.

## Road Headquarters

The Bears will arrive in Green Bay, WI next Saturday afternoon and will be headquartered at the Granada Royal Hotel in Green Bay. The team does not plan to hold a workout in Green Bay.

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BEAR REPORT welcomes all Letters to the Editor. Due to space limitations, it may be necessary to shorten letters to fill the space available. BEAR REPORT does not necessarily agree with the views stated in the letters we receive. Unsigned letters will not be printed.

### Bears Best In NFL

Dear BEAR REPORT,

I was surprised as I sat in "C.J. Bret's" in Hermosa Beach, CA: the time was 1:04 p.m. and when the 7-0 Bears-49ers score flashed on the Tampa-Rams game the room started shakin', people were screamin' "BEARS, BEARS, BEARS" at a deafening roar. I thought I was in a Chicago bar with all these fans screaming. We yelled on every play during the game. I was forced to watch the game on a satellite because of the idiotic NFL rules that didn't allow the game televised in L.A. The fans of CJ's made up for it. L.A. has big Bear fans, we love it!

The 49er game was the best the Bears' defense looked all year. There is no doubt Bear fans, THE BEARS ARE THE BEST TEAM IN THE NFL! Since Jim McMahon is healthy and more experienced there's no stopping the Bears. I doubt we'll go 16-0 but 14-2 is very possible and I predict that the Bears will play at home for the NFC CHAMPIONSHIP.

I wish the Bears would gain the national respect they deserve. In L.A. all we hear about are the Rams and they aren't all that good folks. With all the talk about Eric the great, and Tony Dorsett, and Marcus Allen, and James Wilder, look who's been great for 11 years folks. Will anybody come out and say Walter Payton is the best in football, the best ever?" Probably not, we don't want to hurt anyone's feelings or bruise egos, do we? Payton is the best that ever played running back — period!

I have a few predictions for the remainder of the season.

— Jim McMahon stays healthy and continues to lead the NFC in passing.

— Bears' offense goes from No. 2 to No. 1.

— Willie Gault runs at LEAST one more kickoff back for a TD (probably against Dallas or Miami).

- Bears' defense ranked No. 1 by week 10.
- Bears will lose first game to a lesser team and probably an NFC Central team.
- Bears finish the season 14-2 (including a win over Dallas).
- Bears play and beat Dallas (in Chicago) for NFC Championship.
- Bears and Miami for Super Bowl.
- Bears win 31-21.

Regardless of whether I'm right on anything at all, the one thing I know, Walter's getting that ring THIS YEAR!

There will be a lot of talk and publicity about coach Ditka's D.U.I. (driving under the influence). All I have to say is the guy is human and I hope he gets NFL Coach of the Year!

This is our year Bear fans. Let's hope Frank Gifford learns Buddy Ryan's name by the time the Bears play Miami. Buddy Ryan will NOT leave Chicago. Why would he leave the team that won Super Bowl XX?

BEARS ALL THE WAY! From all of your L.A. fans!

Jay Redman  
Redondo Beach, CA

### Forget Bell and Harris

Dear Editor,

It appears it is time to close the book on Bell and Harris. They will never wear the Bear uniform. The brilliant performances of Duerson and Marshall in the 49er game definitely showed they won't be missed. The tragedy is the Bears won't receive their value in draft choices if they are traded. Bell's asking price of \$533,000.00 per year is ridiculous. The Bears' offer of \$400,000.00 was overly generous in view of the fact he doesn't add a buck to the bottom line. He's not exactly a Sammy Davis or a Frank Sinatra when it comes to packing the house. He's one guy in 11 that makes up the defense, or 9% of the whole club. By his figures that means the 11 guys out there should be making six million. Where is that kind of money going to come from? The Bears can't print their own money. If they don't show a profit, they can't pay their bills. So letting Harris and Bell go should save them \$750,000 a year. This will buy a lot of equipment, pay a few medical bills and maybe add some desperately needed money to the bottom line.

So let them stay home sitting on their brains. I think loyalty comes before greed. What the Bears don't need is one bad attitude that could become infectious. Let them go — better somebody else should have the headaches of dealing with Howard Slusher. He probably has enough holdouts sitting home to form his own team.

Nate Lehrmann  
Miami Beach, FL

### Greetings From England

Dear Editor,

May I just take this opportunity to wish the squad great success for the rest of the season, especially after beating San Francisco to give us a 6-0 start. And a special thanks to the interior line on getting it together for some great protection for Jim and Walter. Great stuff lads, keep at it.

Mr. Tim Gaskin  
Laicester, England U.K.

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BRAD ANDERSON (86) provides a key block on Walter Payton's fourth quarter touchdown reception. (Bear Report photo by Jonathan Daniel)



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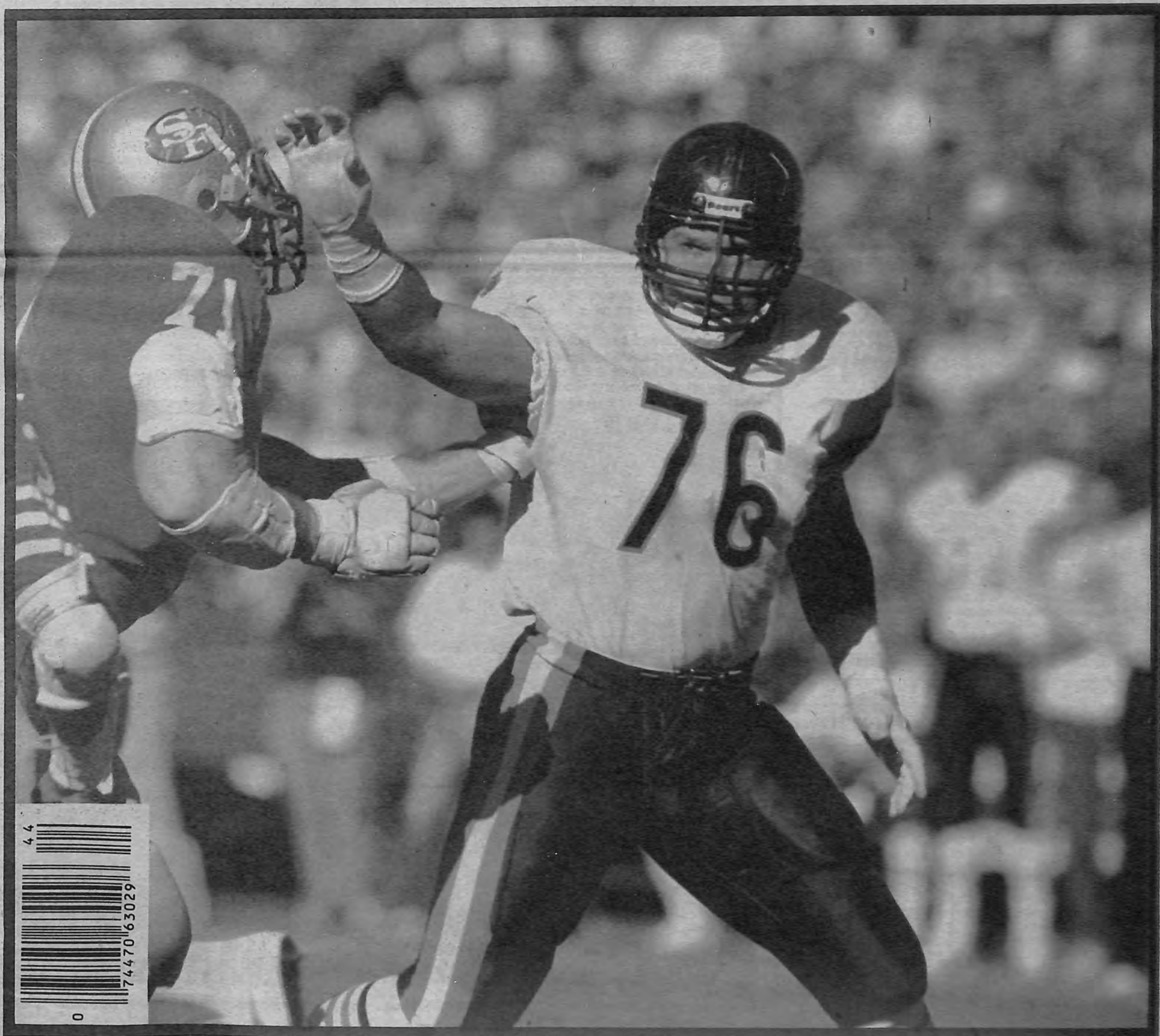
# BEAR REPORT

A NEWSPAPER DEVOTED EXCLUSIVELY TO THE CHICAGO BEARS AND THE NFL.

Vol. 10, No. 14    October 31, 1985

PUBLISHED BY 55 ENTERPRISES, INC.

CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60611





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